

Date: Thu, 15 Jul 93 11:39:44 PDT
From: Ham-Policy Mailing List and Newsgroup <ham-policy@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Ham-Policy-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Ham-Policy@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Ham-Policy Digest V93 #231
To: Ham-Policy

Ham-Policy Digest Thu, 15 Jul 93 Volume 93 : Issue 231

Today's Topics:

 Code Debate- we are all telegraphists
Dana's generalizations (was Re: Lost petition for VHF/UHF beams) (3 msgs)
 Guide to the Personal Radio Newsgroups
 Kids aren't supposed to know anything, right? (2 msgs)
 machine-generated CW

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Ham-Policy@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Ham-Policy-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Ham-Policy Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/ham-policy".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Thu, 15 Jul 1993 01:45:54 GMT
From: munnari.oz.au!bruce.cs.monash.edu.au!trlluna!titan!pcies4.trl.OZ.AU!
drew@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Code Debate- we are all telegraphists
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

Look up "telegraphist" in your dictionary.

73, Drew, VK3XU.

Date: Thu, 15 Jul 1993 01:40:46 GMT
From: anomaly.sbs.com!kd1hz@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Dana's generalizations (was Re: Lost petition for VHF/UHF beams)
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

jbloom@arrl.org (Jon Bloom, KE3Z) writes:

>and your understanding of the history of the
>no-code debate is wrong.

You deny that K1ZZ wrote strong anti-no-code editorials in the
80's?

You deny that the league's official position in the mid 80's was
"NO CODE NO WAY!"?

You deny that the ARRL published a poll that it took of its membership
in the 80's which overwhelmingly demonstrated that its membership was
against the no-code license?

I just want to get this established in fact before I whip out the past
13 years of QST that I have and start quoting facts on the ARRL's
position as is published in your own magazine.

MD

Date: Thu, 15 Jul 93 01:46:08 EDT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!
usenet.ins.cwru.edu!wariat.org!wariat.org!nraven!floyd@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Dana's generalizations (was Re: Lost petition for VHF/UHF beams)
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

> But, far be it from me to criticize the all mighty and powerful ARRL.
> The only reason myself and many of my friends are members is beacuse of
> QST and even thats getting pretty sickening.
>
> Tony

I've heard this from a lot of people. Luckilly there is a small,
locally run Amateur Radio store about 15min from my house on the west
side of Cleveland, and I use QST as an excuse to drive out there and say
"hi" to everyone. As long as he's in business, I won't have to worry
about giving the ARRL my money to misrepresent me with. Of course, if he
went out of business, I'd probably just do without the QST. It's just
not worth it.

73 de N8VUR / Doug
floyd@nraven.wariat.org
QSO on 146.82/R anytime!

Date: Thu, 15 Jul 93 01:55:08 EDT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!math.ohio-state.edu!magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!wariat.org!wariat.org!nraven!floyd@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Dana's generalizations (was Re: Lost petition for VHF/UHF beams)
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

rcmolden@parmesan.cs.wisc.edu (Robertc. Moldenhauer) writes:

> Why don't the no coders just just the AARL and take it over? A critical mas
> of no coders would force the AARL to drop it's anti-no code bias.

Why not? Because I don't think I should bother. If the ARRL wants to represent the entire amateur community they can start acting like it. It's the little things that seem to really set me off. When QST talks about someone getting a fine from the FCC, you either read:

so-and-so recieved a notice of apparent liability for something

-or if the person is no-code-

so and so, a NO-CODE TECHNICIAN, was issued a notice of apparent...

I'm not going to waste my money support a group which won't support me. All the ARRL members can get on this group and tell us we're wrong in our assumptions, but they have to. I'll be upgrading when I hit a VE session in about 3 weeks, and I don't think I'm going to bother with the ARRL at that point in time either. Not after being such an outcast to their community. However, since amateur radio is such a service to the community, I'd like to remind them that the majority of people doing public service events around my area are no-codes. Not all, but a majority. I guess maybe the ARRL managers would rather be nice and comfortable sitting in their shacks rag-chewing on HF while we prove to congress why we deserve the band-width.

73 de N8VUR / Doug
floyd@nraven.wariat.org
QSO on 146.82/R anytime!

Date: Thu, 15 Jul 1993 13:32:09 GMT
From: nevada.edu!news.unomaha.edu!news@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Guide to the Personal Radio Newsgroups
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

Posted-By: auto-faq 2.4
Archive-name: radio/personal-intro

Revision: 1.4 06/30/93 12:04:14

Changes: new rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups, cs.utexas.edu gateway

(Note: The following is reprinted with the permission of the author.
Due to the recent reorganization, it is also on a temporarily-
accelerated posting schedule as follows:

July weekly
August bi-weekly
September back to monthly)

This message describes the rec.radio.amateur.*, rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.info, and rec.radio.swap newsgroups. It is intended to serve as a guide for the new reader on what to find where. Questions and comments may be directed to the author, Jay Maynard, K5ZC, by Internet electronic mail at jmaynard@oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu. This message was last changed on 30 June 1993 to add the groups created during the latest reorganization vote and the description of the cs.utexas.edu gateway.

History
=====

Way back when, before there was a Usenet, the Internet hosted a mailing list for hams, called (appropriately enough) INFO-HAMS. Ham radio discussions were held on the mailing list, and sent to the mailboxes of those who had signed up for it. When the Usenet software was created, and net news as we now know it was developed, a newsgroup was created for hams: net.ham-radio. The mailing list and the newsgroup were gatewayed together, eventually.

As the net grew, and as packet radio came into vogue, packet discussion began to dominate other topics in the group and on the list. This resulted in the logical solution: a group was created to hold the packet discussion, and another corresponding mailing list was created as well: net.ham-radio.packet and PACKET-RADIO, respectively.

These two groups served for several years, and went through Usenet's Great Renaming essentially unchanged, moving from net.ham-radio[.packet] to rec.ham-radio[.packet]. Readership and volume grew with the rest of the network.

The INFO-HAMS mailing list was originally run from a US Army computer at White Sands Missile Range, SIMTEL20. There were few problems with this arrangement, but one was that the system was not supposed to be used for commercial purposes. Since one of hams' favorite pastimes is swapping gear, it was natural for hams to post messages about equipment for sale to INFO-HAMS/rec.ham-radio. This ran afoul of SIMTEL20's no-commercial-use restriction, and after some argument, a group was created specifically for messages like that: rec.ham-radio.swap. This group wasn't gatewayed to

a mailing list, thus avoiding problems.

While all this was happening, other folks wanted to discuss other aspects of the world of radio than the personal communications services. Those folks created the `rec.radio.shortwave` and `rec.radio.noncomm` newsgroups, and established the precedent of the `rec.radio.*` hierarchy, which in turn reflected Usenet's overall trend toward a hierarchical name structure.

The debate between proponents of a no-code ham radio license and its opponents grew fierce and voluminous in late 1989 and 1990. Eventually, both sides grew weary of the debate, and those who had not been involved even more so. A proposal for a newsgroup dedicated to licensing issues failed. A later proposal was made for a group that would cover the many recurring legal issues discussions. During discussion of the latter proposal, it became clear that it would be desirable to fit the ham radio groups under the `rec.radio.*` hierarchy. A full-blown reorganization was passed by Usenet voters in January 1991, leading to the overall structure we now use.

After the reorganization, more and more regular information postings began to appear, and were spread out across the various groups in `rec.radio.*`. Taking the successful example of the `news.answers` group, where informational postings from across the net are sent, the group `rec.radio.info` was created in December, 1992, with Mark Salyzyn, VE6MGS, initially serving as moderator.

In January, 1993, many users started complaining about the volume in `rec.radio.amateur.misc`. This led to a discussion about a second reorganization, which sparked the creation of a mailing list by Ian Kluft, KD6EUI. This list, which was eventually joined by many of the most prolific posters to the ham radio groups, came up with a proposal to add 11 groups to the `rec.radio.amateur` hierarchy in April 1993. The subsequent vote, held in May and early June, approved the creation of five groups: `rec.radio.amateur.digital.misc` (to replace `.packet`), `.equipment`, `.homebrew`, `.antenna`, and `.space`.

The Current Groups

=====

I can hear you asking, "OK, so this is all neat history, but what does it have to do with me now?" The answer is that the history of each group has a direct bearing on what the group is used for, and what's considered appropriate where.

The easy one is `rec.radio.amateur.misc`. It is what `rec.ham-radio` was renamed to during the reorganization. Any message that's not more appropriate in one of the other groups belongs here, from contesting to DX to ragchewing on VHF to information on becoming a ham.

The group `rec.radio.amateur.digital.misc` is for discussions related to

(surprise!) digital amateur radio. This doesn't have to be the common two-meter AX.25 variety of packet radio, either; some of the most knowledgeable folks in radio digital communications can be found here, and anything in the general area is welcome. The name was changed to emphasize this, and to encourage discussion not only of other text-based digital modes, such as AMTOR, RTTY, and Clover, but things like digital voice and video as well. The former group, `rec.radio.amateur.packet`, has not been removed as of this writing, but it is obsolete, and you should use `.digital.misc` instead. The group has the `.misc` as part of the name to allow further specialization if the users wish it, such as `.digital.tcp-ip`.

The swap group is now `rec.radio.swap`. This recognizes a fact that became evident shortly after the original group was formed: Hams don't just swap ham radio gear, and other folks besides hams swap ham equipment. If you have radio equipment, or test gear, or computer stuff that hams would be interested in, here's the place. Equipment wanted postings belong here too. Discussions about the equipment generally don't; if you wish to discuss a particular posting with the buyer, email is a much better way to do it, and the other groups, especially `.equipment` and `.homebrew`, are the place for public discussions. There is now a regular posting with information on how to go about buying and selling items in `rec.radio.swap`; please refer to it before you post there.

The first reorganization added two groups to the list, one of which is `rec.radio.amateur.policy`. This group was created as a place for all the discussions that seem to drag on interminably about the many rules, regulations, legalities, and policies that surround amateur radio, both existing and proposed. The neverending no-code debate goes here, as does the New Jersey scanner law, the legality of ordering a pizza on the autopatch, what a bunch of rotten no-goodniks the local frequency coordinating body is, and so on.

The other added group is `rec.radio.cb`. This is the place for all discussion about the Citizens' Band radio service. Such discussions have been very inflammatory in `rec.ham-radio` in the past; please do not cross-post to both `rec.radio.cb` and `rec.radio.amateur.*` unless the topic is genuinely of interest to both hams and CBers - and very few topics are.

The `rec.radio.info` group is just what its name implies: it's the place where informational messages from across `rec.radio.*` may be found, regardless of where else they're posted. As of this writing, information posted to the group includes Cary Oler's daily solar propagation bulletins, ARRL bulletins, the Frequently Asked Questions files for the various groups, and radio modification instructions. This group is moderated, so you cannot post to it directly; if you try, even if your message is crossposted to one of the other groups, your message will be mailed to the moderator, who is currently Mark Salyzyn, VE6MGS. The email address for submissions to the group is `rec-radio-info@ve6mgs.ampr.ab.ca`. Inquires and other administivia should be directed to `rec-radio-request@ve6mgs.ampr.ab.ca`. For more information about

rec.radio.info, consult the introduction and posting guidelines that are regularly posted to that newsgroup.

The groups rec.radio.amateur.antenna, .equipment, .homebrew, and .space are for more specialized areas of ham radio: discussions about antennas, commercially-made equipment, homebrewing, and amateur radio space operations. The .equipment group is not the place for buying or selling equipment; that's what rec.radio.swap is for. Similarly, the .space group is specifically about amateur radio in space, such as the OSCAR program and SAREX, the Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment; other groups cover other aspects of satellites and space. Homebrewing isn't about making your own alcoholic beverages at home (that's rec.crafts.brewing), but rather construction of radio and electronic equipment by the amateur experimenter.

The rec.radio.amateur.misc, .packet, and .policy groups, and the rec.radio.info group, are available by Internet electronic mail in digest format; send a mail message containing "help" on a line by itself to listserv@ucsd.edu for instructions on how to use the mail server. The rec.radio.swap group is not available for reading by electronic mail. At this writing, the most recently added groups are also not available for reading by electronic mail, although that may change.

All of the groups can be posted to by electronic mail, though, by using a gateway at the University of Texas at Austin. To post a message this way, change the name of the group you wish to post to by replacing all of the '.'s with '-'s - for example, rec.radio.swap becomes rec-radio-swap - and send to that name@cs.utexas.edu (rec-radio-swap@cs.utexas.edu, for example). You may crosspost by including multiple addresses as Cc: entries (but see below). This gateway's continued availability is at the pleasure of the admins at UT-Austin, and is subject to going away at any time - and especially if forgeries and other net.abuses become a problem. You have been warned.

A Few Words on Crossposting

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Please do not crosspost messages to two or more groups unless there is genuine interest in both groups in the topic being discussed, and when you do, please include a header line of the form "Followup-To: group.name" in your article's headers (before the first blank line). This will cause followups to your article to go to the group listed in the Followup-To: line. If you wish to have replies to go to you by email, rather than be posted, use the word "poster" instead of the name of a group. Such a line appears in the headers of this article.

One of the few examples of productive cross-posting is with the rec.radio.info newsgroup. To provide a filtered presentation of information articles, while still maintaining visibility in their home newsgroups, the moderator strongly encourages cross-posting. All information articles should be submitted to the

rec.radio.info moderator so that he may simultaneously cross-post your information to the appropriate newsgroups. Most newsreaders will only present the article once, and network bandwidth is conserved since only one article is propagated. If you make regular informational postings, and have made arrangements with the moderator to post directly to the group, please cross-post as appropriate.

--

Jay Maynard, EMT-P, K5ZC, PP-ASEL | Never ascribe to malice that which can
jmaynard@oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu | adequately be explained by stupidity.

"If my car ran OS/2, it'd be there by now" -- bumper sticker

GCS d++ p+ c++ l+ m+/- s/++ g++ w++ t+ r

--

73, Paul W. Schleck, KD3FU

pschleck@unomaha.edu

Celebrating 60 years of the Univ. of Maryland ARA - W3EAX (1933-1993)

Date: 15 Jul 93 09:01:08 GMT

From: anomaly.sbs.com!kd1hz@uunet.uu.net

Subject: Kids aren't supposed to know anything, right?

To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

moisan@bronze.lcs.mit.edu (David Moisan) writes:

> According to Michael, ham radio's not for young people without
>the ability to pay for kilobuck equipment?

That's not what I said.

I stated that the people who complain about the average age of a ham operator have overlooked the obvious: that ham equipment is just too expensive for most kids to get involved.

Sure, there will always be exceptions to the rule. But, not every kid will have some 80-year-old geezer down the street willing to give him a tube set to use while he learns the code to upgrade.

The push to get the no-code license passed was not to swell the ranks "to protect bandwidth" (most no-coders live on 2mtrs), but rather to increase the ranks so more V/UHF equipment could be sold, and higher advertising rates could be charged in QST.

MD

Date: 15 Jul 1993 01:46:33 -0400
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!gatech!bloom-beacon.mit.edu!ai-lab!bronze.lcs.mit.edu!not-for-mail@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Kids aren't supposed to know anything, right?
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

According to Michael, ham radio's not for young people without the ability to pay for kilobuck equipment? Mike, you couldn't be more wrong if you tried. My story:

I've been into electronics and building things for just about my whole life (I'm 29), ever since my brother-in-law let me look at a Lafayette catalog when I was 4. By the time I was 10, I was reading lots of magazines (Radio Electronics, Popular Mechanics, Elementary Electronics, etc. etc.) The same brother-in-law (alas, late :()) taught me the fine art of dumpster-diving, for which I'm very grateful.

I started fixing radios and such around the house, and when I was 16 I got interested in ham radio. At the time, one still had to go to the FCC to take the exam, and the (huge) Heathkit Novice manual and tapes. No one else I knew was interested in becoming a ham; worse yet, the locals just couldn't be bothered with me. Instead of radio, I got into computers--at least no one could discourage me, or hit me over the head with the "good old days".

In the years since, I kept tinkering with stuff, repairing TV's and VCR's for neighbors, but never considered ham radio again until recently, when I was beginning to lose my interest in electronics and needed to renew my energies. I've been licensed for two years now, and it's the best thing I've ever done. I've gotten back my "investment" (in time and knowledge) many times over.

When I realize the years I could've spent in ham radio, and the many things I could've done if hams had been more progressive back then, I get angry. I know I'm not alone in this.

Meanwhile the SBS crowd whines about stupid newbies, VE sessions and closed repeaters. Might that be the ONLY thing they've ever know, the only thing they can brag about?

Michael, Tony, in the two years I've been a ham, I've done my damnedest to learn all I can about radio. Most of what I learned was NOT on any license exam, but by DOING things, making mistakes and

fixing them. I'm not EE material and I don't know close to everything, but I'm determined to learn all I can about radio and technology in general. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

Do you know an oscilloscope from a telescope? A DMM from a Game Boy? Have you even set foot in a hamfest and said, "Gee, that's a nice looking piece of gear--what's it do?" Used a soldering iron? Fixed things? Or do you--as I suspect--merely whine that *others* don't know? I seldom see your posts on sci.electronics, r.r.a.antennas or r.r.a.homebrew, and almost never a _question_. God forbid you should ask questions--you have all the answers!

I don't think you know anything you didn't parrot from a study guide. Like many old coots, you'll whine when people "don't know" anything, but when you're asked a REAL question, you whine back "HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?"

Mike, Tony, if you're going to insist that "young" people, hams after you, know nothing, then I will apply the converse: You shall be EXPECTED to know everything. And I shall be VERY angry if I find out otherwise.

73's, Dave, N1KGH

P.S. I've borrowed rigs. So much for THAT argument.

--

David Moisan, N1KGH	/^_/\^\ 86 Essex St. Apt #204 (o ^ o) Salem. MA 01970-5225	moisan@silver.lcs.mit.edu n1kgh@amsat.org ce393@cleveland.freenet.edu	
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Date: 15 Jul 93 16:50:49 GMT
From: tijc02!eri316@uunet.uu.net
Subject: machine-generated CW
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

>>A common practice among CW ops was to add a little flourish at the
>>very end of a contact:

>

>>"dit dit di-dit dit"

>>or

>>"dit di-di-di dit dit"

>

> "dit di-dit dit dit"

>

Gee, and I always thought those guys sending the 'shave and a haircut' were lids. Guess there's always something to learn.

73, Ed WX4S

Date: 14 Jul 1993 13:42:18 -0700

From: swrinde!elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!europa.eng.gtefsd.com!
darwin.sura.net!mojo.eng.umd.edu!news.isi.com!news.isi.com!not-for-
mail@network.UCSD.EDU

To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

References <24.794.2805.0NB2962E@pcohio.com>,
<1993Jul11.054430.6530@newsgate.sps.mot.com>, <CA29oH.Ks@squam.banyan.com>t
Subject : Re: Give a VE \$5.60, walk

In article <CA29oH.Ks@squam.banyan.com> dts@banyan.com (Daniel Senie) writes:
>The short answer is that the code tests are a government approved form of Hazing.
>This from a government that outlawed hazing...

I absolutely agree with this! The theory tests are another form of hazing too.

I'm in favor of outlawing both the code and theory tests.

--

Jerry Gardner (jerry@isi.com)		"Violence is the last refuge of
Integrated Systems, Inc.		the incompetent" - Isaac Asimov

Date: Thu, 15 Jul 1993 11:53:52 GMT

From: olivea!pagesat!spssig.spss.com!feenix.metronet.com!marcbg@ames.arpa

To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

References <1993Jul14.201335.13178@sequent.com>, <222282\$h18@hp-col.col.hp.com>,
<222a6uINNnv8@topaz.bds.com>
Subject : Re: Call sign snobbery

I passed my Extra class over 5 years ago. The 5th district had JUST run out of 2x1 Extra Class calls. I elected to keep N5MEI since I new that one day soon the 1x3 calls would be rare. Plus, it sends very well with CW and I was afraid I might get some bizarre AA5 call.

So - when do we think the FCC will re-issue old call signs? Like old 1x2s or 1x3s (W5, K5, etc). Naturally, us extra class hams would get first

References <!gtxl7@dixie.com>, <21rshminnh5d@topaz.bds.com>, <2hvxr_p@dixie.com>.m
Subject : Re: recognizing machine vs hand cw (Was: Brilliant postings)

In article <2hvxr_p@dixie.com> jgd@dixie.com (John De Armond) writes:

>ron@topaz.bds.com (Ron Natalie) writes:

>

>> When I tune across the dial I hear maybe a couple hundred machine-generated
>> CW conversations going on.

>

>>OK, John, how do you determine whether the CW is machine generated? A good
>>iambic keyer in competent hands will sound identical to the ideal weighting.

>

>By what's being said, of course. No, I can't copy CW at any speed but
>my TNC can. If the sender is speaking in 2 letter word abbreviations,
>it is most likely hand-sent. Whole sentences without many Q codes
>or abbreviations are likely machine sent.

Not always.... Back when I was in school (ca. 1988), was *REALLY* active
in cw, and my code speed was around 28 wpm (even when talking with someone
else in the room), I spent a *LOT* of time hanging about on 30m. At those
speeds, it's just as fast to send whole words as it is to send lots of
abbreviations. Granted, there are some that come more naturally due to past
experience (e.g., QTH is ... UR RST nxx ... and a few other more common
abbreviations), but for the most part, you'd see a lot of whole words.

And that was using a keyer (at the time, I had a single-paddle electronic
keyer---not really a bug, as such, just not an iambic keyer). And most of
the time (unless I'd had a few too many beers <grin>), my code was pretty
clean, and could probably have come from a machine (getting back to the
issue at hand).

>Even without copying, one
>can listen to how long a transmission lasts before turning it over and
>get a pretty good idea. Keyboard QSOs tend to be long winded by hand-sent
>code standards and are almost never full breakin.

I can't speak for 30m today, but around 1988 or so, hand-sent cw QSOs
were also often long-winded...when cw becomes as conversational as it does
at around 28 wpm, long-windedness often comes along as a side-effect. Of
course, cw QSOs on 30m are/were also very long (i.e., rag-chew) in general.
This, btw, was one of the reasons why I liked 30m so much---I got sick of
calling CQ and getting a ``599 73 goodbye'' type response. :-) Fun for
some people, but not for me.

As for full break-in, personally, I never have been able to stand it.
Having the receiver kick in between every dit/dah drives me *NUTS*. I'm
sure that I'd get used to it over time, but I'll settle for semi break-in

(i.e., VOX with a fairly short delay time), where I hear the receiver between each word.

Later,
--jim

```
--
#include <std_disclaimer.h>                                73 DE N5IAL (/4)
-----
INTERNET: jim@n5ial.mythical.com | j.graham@ieee.org      ICBM: 30.23N 86.32W
AMATEUR RADIO: (packet station temporarily offline)      AMTOR SELCAL: NIAL
-----
E-mail me for information about KAMterm (host mode for Kantronics TNCs).
```

End of Ham-Policy Digest V93 #231
